



Match Report

Opponent: At Brixham Rugby Football Club

Date: 23 Sept 05

Match: Navy 0 Brixham RFC 41

For Navy's first match in England the Gold Shirts traveled to Brixham to take on the Fishermen of Brixham Rugby Football Club. Navy kicked to open the match and the first ten minutes saw mostly Brixham possession but nothing to worry Navy. A Navy break saw the Midshipmen within the Brixham 22, but the Fisherman quickly inverted the field to the Navy 22. The first try came off a fast rebuild by the Brixham backs and a pooch kick into the try zone. The Fishermen claimed to touch the ball down just ahead of senior fullback Lane Drummond and the referee concurred; no conversion (Navy 0 BRFC 5). After the kick off, Navy held strong and at multiple times looked poised to break through to try. Long runs by third-class number 8 Andrew Vagley and one by senior center Carlos Oroza were saved by the Brixham fullback, keeping Navy off the board. Despite the strong tackling of second-class fly half Paul Bailey and multiple runs by Vagley, Brixham scored again. Two penalties against Navy in four phases had the Fishermen within ten meters and they punched it in for a 10 nil halftime lead.

The second half showed Brixham to be the much more experienced team, consistently able to rebuild on both sides of the ball faster than Navy. This resulted in room to run on both flanks and five second half tries for the Fishermen; two converted (Navy 0 BRFC 41). Navy would make a strong press within the Brixham 22, which included a 5 meter scrum, but the Fishermen defense, as they had done all night, held when needed and stole ball often in tackle and ruck. The final minutes saw a determined stand by the Gold defense to hold the score. The result was much more a mark of experience and years rather than heart and effort. Navy will do well to learn from this match.

Scoring Stats:

Trys

None

Penalty Kicks

None

Conversions made

None

Conversions missed

None

Cards

None

Man of the Match

2/C Paul Bailey (Navy pick)

3/C Andrew Vagley (BRFC pick)

~Midn 1/C M. Quin Reporting